

Remarks

Summary of Examiner's Action

Claims 1-41 are pending in this application.

Claims 19-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 48 and 73-94, respectively, of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,209,130.

Claims 1-4, 6-13, and 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,576,755 (hereinafter "Davis").

Claims 5 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davis.

Applicants' Reply to the Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 101

Claims 19-41 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 101 as claiming the same invention as that of claims 48 and 73-94, respectively, of prior U.S. Patent No. 6,209,130. Applicants have cancelled claims 19-41. Applicants respectfully request that this rejection be withdrawn.

1

Applicants' Reply to the Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

Claims 1-4, 6-13, and 15-18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Davis. The Examiner's rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 10 have been amended to more particularly define the invention. No new subject matter has been added and the amendments are fully supported and justified by the specification (e.g., see page 18, lines 9-12 of the specification).

Claims 42-50 have been added as Beauregard claims corresponding to method claims 10-18. The new claims do not intrude any new matter and are fully supported and justified by the specification.

Applicants' invention, as defined by independent claims 1, 10, and 42, is directed towards a system and a method for error-checking program data when constructing program schedules. Program schedules are constructed at television system computers using program data accessed from a database. As the program schedules are being constructed by personnel, they are error-checked in real-time at at least one of the television system computers. For example, as someone is placing a program listing in a particular time slot (e.g., by

dragging and dropping), applicants' claimed invention will perform an error-check to make sure that placing the program listing into that time slot is appropriate. If not, an error message may be displayed and the action will not be allowed to complete, for example.

The relevant portions of Davis refer to a verification system that checks for errors in program guide data used to construct program guides. Program guide data goes through an initial pre-verification process. Program schedule listings are then constructed. After construction, the program schedule listings are subjected to a listing verification procedure.

The Examiner contends that "as the operator inputs the data entries initial checks are naturally considered, thereby meeting claims 1 and 10." Applicants respectfully submit that, contrary to the Examiner's contention, Davis does not show or suggest verifying program guide schedules in real-time as they are being constructed. Moreover, Davis does not show or suggest verifying program guide schedules in real-time as they are being constructed at television system computers. Rather, Davis refers to verifying program schedule listings in

a verification procedure at the listings database (e.g., using a verification system).

In view of the foregoing, applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 10, and 42 are allowable. Claims 2-4, 6-9, 11-13, 15-18, 43-45, and 47-50 depend from claims 1, 10, and 42 and are allowable because claims 1, 10, and 42 are allowable. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 1-4, 6-13, and 15-18 be withdrawn.

Applicants' Reply to the Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

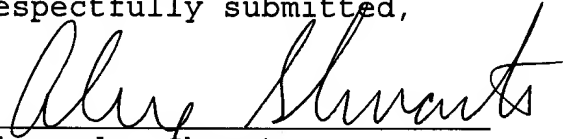
Claims 5 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Davis. The Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

Claims 5, 14, and 46 depend from independent claims 1, 10, and 42, respectively, and are allowable because independent claims 1, 10, and 42 are allowable. Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of claims 5 and 14 be withdrawn.

Conclusion

For at least the reasons set forth above, applicants respectfully submit that this application is in condition for allowance. Reconsideration and prompt allowance of this application are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alexander Shvarts", written over a horizontal line.

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APPENDIX
(To Show Changes Made to the Claims)

1. (Amended) A system for error-checking program data [over a data network] when constructing program schedules, comprising:

a database of program data; and

a plurality of television system computers where program schedules are constructed, wherein the program schedules are constructed using the program data from the database, and wherein at least one of the television system computers is configured to check the program schedules in real-time [during the construction] as the program schedules are being constructed by personnel at the television system computers.

10. (Amended) A method for error-checking program data [over a data network], comprising:

maintaining a database of program data; and

using a plurality of television system computers to construct program schedules, wherein the program schedules are constructed using the program data from the database, and wherein at least one of the television system computers is

configured to check the program schedules in real-time [during the construction] as the program schedules are being constructed by personnel at the television system computers.